

FRENCH ELECTIONS SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Will Have Important Place in
History of the Third
Republic.

STRONG PARTIES IN FIGHT

Killing of Editor of Figaro Will
Have Considerable Influence
on Voters.

Paris, April 21.—The elections of 1914 for the Chamber of Deputies, which will be held on Sunday, April 26, will have an important place in the history of the third republic.

The killing of Gaston Calmette, editor of the Figaro, by Madame Caillaux, wife of the ex-minister of finance, and the great financial scandal, which the Figaro tragedy served to bring to a focus, will, no doubt, have considerable influence upon the voters, but probably not so much effect as may be thought by observers abroad. The point which stands out in connection with the elections is that for the first time under the present regime two powerful and well-defined constitutional parties are opposed to each other.

One of these parties is made up of the Radical and Socialist-Republican groups, the other is the Federation of Democrats of the Left, formed a few months ago only by Alexandre Briand. The only "bloc" of Republican groups formed for the separation of church and state, having once accomplished its purpose, began slowly to disintegrate. It was first weakened by denunciation on the part of the United Socialists of the treaty of alliance, then it lost one by one the assured support of other Republican groups and their leaders. The spinster group, which the uncompromising anticlericalism to which the Radicals, the largest unit in the "bloc" rigidly adhered, was out of date and ready only to promote internal dissension and national weakness, and was moreover, out of touch with the bulk of public opinion.

However, by strict enforcement of party discipline, the Radicals succeeded in maintaining a predominant position, and no minority could live for long without its acquiescence. The way in which the Caillaux cabinet mishandled the difficult international crisis arising out of the Agadir incident, caused widespread public dissatisfaction, and was the first blow to the radical prestige. In the following year the Balkan War and the grave international situation caused Germany to greatly augment her military strength. French opinion at once took alarm, the adequacy of France's defenses was called in question.

Senator Raymond Poincaré, until then little known to the public, seized



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the moment to come forward with a new political gospel. He preached a new France, self-respecting and respected by all the world, toleration for all opinions and creeds, a more efficient and fairer administration and a reformed fiscal policy in place of the rough and ready expedients for meeting current expenditure, which seemed to have become almost an invariable rule.

The "New Spirit," as it soon was called, made immediate and rapid progress, but it was not until a few months later, after Barthou cabinet's defeat by a political ruse of the Radicals, that Briand, upon whom the mantle of Poincaré had fallen after the latter's election to the presidency, took the great step of embodying it into a party. He was supported by a number of the most prominent men in public life, from both the Senate and Chamber, including Theophile Delcasse, Louis Barthou, Stephen Pichon, Jean Dupuy, proprietor of the Petit Parisien, a newspaper with an average daily circulation of over 1,500,000. Alexandre Millerand, Henry Chéron, all of them ex-ministers, and a host of other men. The new "Briandist" party, as it is usually called, has also secured the support of the largest and most influential section of the press. Its weak point is organization, the short time between the formation of the party and the elections, making anything more than a summary plan of campaign out of the question.

Against this formidable array of individual talent the radicals have little to oppose. The strong man, perhaps the only strong man of the party,

Joseph Caillaux, is temporarily in eclipse, and that is a heavy blow to its fortunes. George Clemenceau, while absolutely opposed to the Briandists, differs on several points from the other radicals, notably on the military question. Gaston Doumergue, the present Premier, Charles Dumont, Louis Malvy, Joseph Nogués, René Renoult, André Maginot are mere names to the general public. They are second-rate or young and inexperienced men. To offset this, however, the radicals have a party organization built up by years of experience and study to a degree of efficiency almost unequalled by any party and machine in the world.

Its ramifications reach into every village in France. Its permanent committees in every constituency, by a judicious dispensing of small favors and petty decorations, are always able to count on the support of large sections of the electorate. Consequently, when the word of command comes from headquarters, the machine puts in the radical candidate in nine cases out of ten, no matter what his personal qualifications may be. That is one reason why there is so little evidence of an electoral campaign in France, compared with America or England. Briand and his friends are pacified with the election addresses of the various candidates, but there is little space given to the election in the press, and very few large political meetings.

This year, however, the Briandists are endeavoring to make up for their lack of organization by a propaganda speech-making campaign in the principal centers, "to educate" the public. They are also distributing large quantities of literature. It will be seen from this that the radicals depend almost wholly on the vote of the large section of the community hitherto indifferent to, or even contemptuous of, politics. Some students of political conditions declare that this class is even more indifferent than ever. They point out that at the election after the Panama scandal, all the deputies involved, who presented themselves for re-election, were re-elected by an increased majority, and that, therefore, the supposed effect of the Rochette scandal should be largely discounted. Under these circumstances, it is easy to realize the magnitude of the task the Briandists set themselves.

The programs of the two parties differ more in degree than in kind. The principal differences are on the national defense and reform questions. The radicals, according to the program adopted at their congress at Pau a few months back, deny the necessity of the three years period of military service, and advocate a speedy return to the two years regime. The Briandists, on the other hand, hold that such a step, in face of the ever-growing masses on the eastern frontier, is tantamount to national suicide. Both are agreed as to the desirability of electoral reform. The radicals would define it to going back to the old system of election by district, by which each elector votes for as many deputies as the entire department has to elect. This was supplanted in 1889 by the present system of scrutin d'arrondissement, under which each department is divided into a number of constituencies, each elector voting for one deputy only. The Briandists hold that this does not go far enough. They want, in addition, a modified form of proportional representation. The Socialists agree with them.

Both parties again favor a graduated income tax, instead of the present system of direct taxation, calculated on the rental value of the house occupied by the taxpayer. But, while the radicals wish to arm the fiscal authorities with power to verify the declaration of the taxpayer by examining his books and papers, the Briandists oppose such a provision as arbitrary and unjust, in which they are, of course, supported by all the substantial middle class.

Of the other parties, the United Socialists are weakened by internal dissensions. One section of the party wished to form a coalition with the radicals, but this was rejected. It was, however, resolved that the Socialist vote should be turned over to the radical candidate in constituencies where no Socialist was standing. A new party, the Catholic party, appears for the first time in the present election. It is the result of a movement initiated by the Catholic newspaper, L'Avenir. The program of the new party is the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican, the recognition of the legal status of the church in France, the recognition of the Catholic right to teach in schools, the participation of the Catholic school funds, and the repeal of the divorce law. Although there has been a considerable revival of popular interest in the church and its work of recent years, it is not believed that the new movement will lead to the creation of a Catholic party in Parliament. A very considerable, if not a very considerable, movement dangerous and likely to have political consequences harmful to the cause of religion.

The Chamber that has just completed its four years' mandate comprised 597 deputies. Owing to changes in population in various centers, there has been a redistribution by which the number has been increased to 607. When elected in 1910, the chamber was divided into the following groups: Radicals, 112; Socialist-Republicans, 76; Independent Socialists, 24; Action Lib., 24; Right, 21; Independent, 24; 15 various splitts among the Republican groups; the total of 9 has been increased to 12.

The nucleus of the Republican majority is formed by the Radicals and Socialist-Republicans, to all intents and purposes one group, the other groups being the Democratic Left and the Progressives, the latter being a very conservative line of republicanism. To these were generally joined the Inde-

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Miss Mabel Dobbins	Ruffner (Central)	49,475
Mr. W. C. Locker	John Marshall Night School	46,541
Miss Rachel Lyon	Bainbridge	5,514
Mr. W. H. Cooke	Randolph	2,063
Mr. G. A. Riddick	William Fox	2,404
Miss M. E. Craig	McGuire	1,820
Mr. A. B. Conner	Jefferson	1,691
Miss Emily Valentine	Chimborazo	1,278
Mr. F. E. Cosby	R. C. M.	1,104

We have temporarily discontinued the names of teachers who have not 1,000 votes to their credit. As soon as 1,000 or more votes are registered these names will be published.

pendent Socialists, which include among them Ireland and Millerand, whose socialism is far removed from the more or less revolutionary kind professed by the United Socialists and their leader, Jean Jaures. The Action Liberales, the Right and the Independent are mostly Royalists or Bonapartists, and have no political significance. A working majority based on such

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BOULEVARD WILL HAVE NEW LIGHTS

Ornamental Lamps to Line Driveway From Monument Avenue to Byrd Park.

The Administrative Board yesterday authorized the Superintendent of the Electric Plant to install ornamental lights on the Boulevard between Monument Avenue and William Byrd Park. The new lights will give a picturesque avenue effect to the popular West End speedway, and enhance its value as an evening promenade. It was said by a member of the board that the lights will be installed within sixty days. New ornamental lights were ordered also to be placed in Chimborazo Park. The board voted yesterday to add to the park equipment a power lawnmower. It ordered the purchase of one of these machines from the Southern Railway Supply Company, at a cost of \$240. The mower will be stationed for the present at Chimborazo Park, and will be moved from there to other parks, as the need arises.

Superintendent Trafford, of the Electric Plant, reported that in making inspections of locations for the erection of illuminated hospital zone signs, it was found that in most cases it would be necessary to erect the poles bearing these signs immediately under existing arc lamps. He suggested, therefore, that, in lieu of separate poles, wherever possible the present lamp posts be utilized for the zone indicators.

In accordance with Mr. Trafford's recommendation, the board moved to reconsider its contract to the Gordon Supply Company, under which it purchased 100 illuminated hospital zone signs at \$13 each, instructing the Superintendent of the Electric Plant to purchase only such poles and signs as are needed to carry into effect the provisions of the hospital zone ordinance.

HOBSON ADVISES SALE OF FORD LOT

Urges City to Transfer It to State to Get Handsome Building.

Graham B. Hobson, member of the House of Delegates from Richmond, appeared before the Council Finance Committee last night to urge the sale of the Ford Lot property to the State. The Commonwealth's purpose to intervene the property with a costly building, thought Mr. Hobson, should effect such objects as the city might have to selling the property. Under the terms of a bill passed by the last General Assembly the state is authorized to buy the Ford Lot for \$150,000. The city paid \$150,000 for the property about two years ago. The sale was opposed by S. W. Meek and H. B. Pollard. The latter, as chairman of the Finance Committee, when the Ford Lot purchase was before that body, took a prominent part in forwarding the deal. He urged the committee to oppose any move looking to the sale of the property for any such price as was offered by the State. The Commonwealth, he said, could find several suitable sites for such new

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buildings as it contemplates. A large delegation, headed by Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, was on hand to speak for the Jeter Memorial Hall Library plan. Dr. Chandler expressed the desire to transmit from the Rotary Club certain resolutions favoring the Jeter Memorial Hall purchase, but the committee decided not to go further into the matter last night.

"Let's wait until after the election," advised one member, humorously.

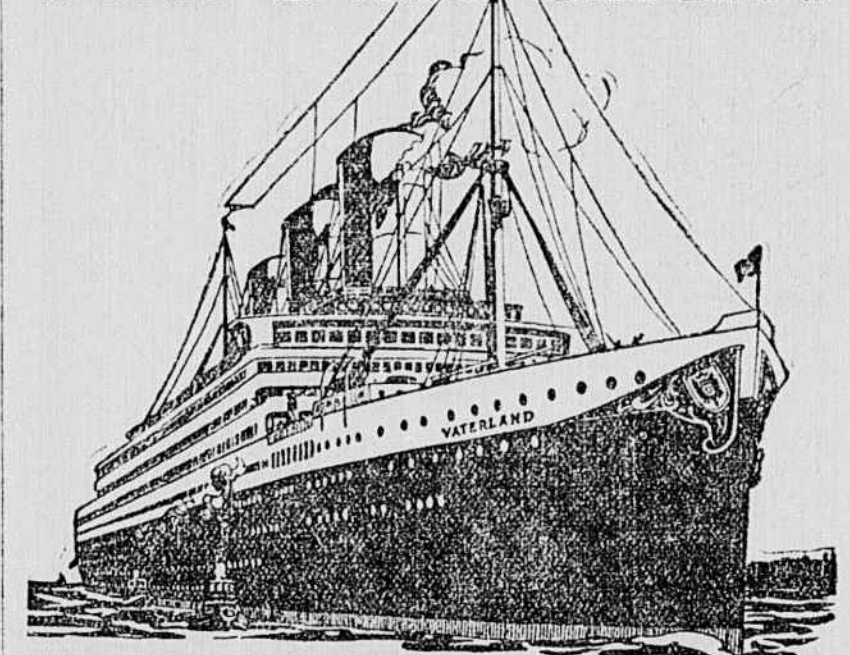
"I'm perfectly willing to wait until that time," said Dr. Chandler. The committee heard expressions from other civic delegations on pending measures, and went into executive session at 10:30 o'clock. It adjourned a few minutes later without taking action on any of the business before it. The committee will hold an executive session on the evening of May 1, to clean up its docket.

Tells Police Secrets. J. L. Purnell, a colored barber, was arrested yesterday by Bicycle Policeman Traynor on the charge of interfering with him in the discharge of his duty.

Traylor was seeking to arrest James Kenney, a negro, who he wanted on the charge of "shooting up" a restaurant last September. He had located him, but Purnell is alleged to have "tipped" him that a "cop was coming," and he managed to make his escape. Kenney left the city after the shooting, and only returned yesterday morning. It is supposed that he has gone away again.

Choosing Text-Books. The State Board of Education held two lengthy sessions yesterday over the problem of choosing text-books to be used in the public schools of the State for the next few years. The various committees appointed to report on certain classes of books gave the board the results of their study yesterday. In the majority of cases the committee findings were accepted without debate. The complete list of books adopted was not ready for publication yesterday, said Superintendent Starnes.

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